

John H. Thompson
Director,
Bureau of the Census
US Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Mr Thompson:

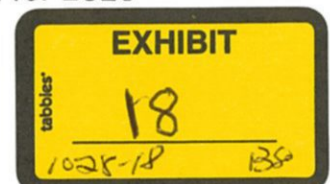
We are writing to formally request the reinstatement of a question on the 2020 Census questionnaire relating to citizenship. The Department seeks to reinstate the question because of recent Court decisions _____ where courts required enumerated (block level) data related to voting age population. This data can only be provided based on enumerated (Census), rather than sample (ACS) data.

We are aware that the 2010 Census was the first decennial census since the 1880 Census without a question about citizenship. We also note that the American Community Survey, which replaced the "long form" version of the questionnaire in the decennial 2000 Census, asks a question about citizenship. We are not aware that of any serious concerns relating to the presence of a citizenship question on the ACS.

We understand that the Bureau personnel may believe that ACS data on citizenship was sufficient for redistricting purposes. We wanted the Bureau to be aware that two recent Court cases have underscored that ACS data is not viable and/or sufficient for purposes of redistricting. Two important citations from these cases are as follows:

We note that in these two cases, one in 2006 and one in 2009, courts reviewing compliance with requirements of the Voting Rights Act and its application in legislative redistricting, have required Latino voting districts to contain 50% + 1 of "Citizen Voting Age Population (or CVAP). It is clear that full compliance with these Federal Court decisions will require block level data than can only be secured by a mandatory question in the 2020 enumeration. Our understanding is that data on citizenship is specifically required to ensure that the Latino community achieves full representation in redistricting.

We accordingly request that the Bureau prepare, without delay, the appropriate question on citizenship for the 2020 Census, and submit this addition for 2020



Census for OMB Review and other appropriate notifications.

Please let me know if you have any questions about his letter or wish to discuss this subject. I can be reached at (202) ----- or _____@doj.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Attachment.

Cc: